

# Refugee's Story Clears Up Cause of Halifax Disaster and Great Loss

## SAYS BELGIAN SHIP, AFIRE, RAN INTO BOAT BEARING T.N.T.

(Continued from First Page.)

thought it was a German ship shelling the town. Somehow I didn't. My first thought was that the citadel had blown up.

"I don't make any bones about saying that I lost it. I ran out into the street, it was filled with people crying, praying, but all running. Somebody said: 'Run south, because the explosion was to the north of us.'"

"Believe me I ran south, but I was not alone. The windows were broken out and the street filled with debris. Windows of jewelry stores were broken out and diamonds and watches lay open in the cases, but nobody paid any attention to them. I guess everybody thought the same thing I did, to get to an open place as soon as possible."

**Heard Cries of Wounded.**

"It was fearful. Live wires were down all over the street and in the buildings that were shattered we could hear the wounded crying."

"Trying to help at that time was worse than useless. It was too big. It was stunning. We didn't co-ordinate, all we thought of was to get somewhere away from the horror."

"I turned into a parade ground some blocks from my office to get my breath a little and then ran up on top of the hill. This must have been ten minutes after the explosion, but a big mushroom of smoke which was bursting pure white at the top towered up into the sky over the harbor. It was terrifying, but still one of the most magnificent things I ever remember seeing."

"From the top of the hill I soon saw that practically all the destruction was on the north of us, in the poorer wooden section of the city."

**Wooden Houses Wrecked.**

"The force of the explosion had demolished the flimsy wooden buildings and the overturned stoves had set them on fire. I did not hear at any time the slightest suspicion of a German plot. An officer in the citadel told me that the *Mont Blanc* had 240 tons of T. N. T. on board but that only forty tons of it exploded. I do not know how he knew. I think he was probably mistaken. At the time we stood on the hill orders had come to be ready to flood the naval magazines in the harbor."

"Strangely enough there was no scramble to leave. The *Mont Blanc* was scheduled to leave at 6 p. m., and finally got away at 11:30, and I came on her, having intended to leave on that day."

"I would give it as my opinion that Halifax is not in such great need of food as people imagine. What she does need is doctors and nurses, medicines and carpenters. There are large stores of food, blankets, and all those things at Halifax. It is the principal military city of the Dominion, and besides there are large wholesale houses there and at St. John and Truro near by."

**Needs Doctors and Glass.**

"But she needs medical attendance and window glass. I don't suppose there is a whole window in the city for a whole dish."

"With the blizzard which has started in since I came away the people must be suffering terribly with cold and exposure, besides from their burns and burns."

Akron how many dead he thought there were in the city, Mr. Arbuckle said he believed there were at least 4,000, and possibly as many injured.

## DANIELS SENDS U. S. NAVY BLANKETS AND STOVES TO HALIFAX

Twenty-five thousand blankets and 600 stoves from the Portsmouth, N. H., navy yard were today ordered sent by Secretary of the Navy Daniels to relieve the suffering of blizzard-stricken Halifax.

He also dispatched a hospital unit from Provincetown, Mass., and informed the Red Cross that everything the navy has available for relief work is at the disposal of Halifax.

Meantime three American vessels, arrived since the explosion, are doing a work of mercy for the city. One ship adapted to hospital purposes has been converted into a great "sick bay," where American naval surgeons and Halifax doctors are attending hundreds of injured.

American sailors ashore are policing the city, and building shacks to shelter the freezing people.

An overnight message from the American naval commander in charge described the situation in Halifax as "acute and confused."

**A beverage that has taken coffee's place in thousands of American homes—INSTANT POSTUM—There's a Reason**

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## FEATURE SECTION EDITORIALS COMICS

AN I WANT LOTS O' CANDY AN—

SUGAR SHOCKS

FOOD

YOUNG AMERICA

VICTORY OVER FRANCE ENGLAND

THE RACE

ORR-2 EDITOR

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## SCHOOL CHILDREN BLINDED BY GLASS BROKEN BY BLAST

HALIFAX, N. S., Dec. 8.—A lashing northeaster burdened with sleet, that howled in from the Atlantic all last night, and was still raging early today, failed to halt relief work in this stricken city.

Twenty thousand destitute men, women, and children were sheltered in buildings and homes which still remain standing. Barriers of tar paper were built in the shattered windows to shut out the bitter gale.

The loss in Halifax falls heaviest upon children. Whole schools, filled with pupils, were demolished, leaving but one or two survivors. Hundreds of children have been blinded, many permanently, by flying glass.

Two thousand dead, 5,000 injured, 20,000 homeless was the toll in Halifax and its suburbs when the French munitions ship *Mont Blanc* blew up in the harbor Thursday, according to citizens' committee estimates today. The damage is \$300,000,000.

**Enemy Not Blamed.**

Authorities, while too busy in caring for the more fortunate victims to discuss other questions, refuse to believe that an enemy hand had aught to do with the collision and fire.

The thorough checking-up work of the citizens' committee resulted in the north end. The sleet helped but little taken care of last night, when it was certain dead to wander through the storm-swept streets without proper clothing.

Many of the refugees are going about wrapped in blankets. Their own clothes are torn to shreds.

**Blizzard Brings Menace.**

The wildest weather the Atlantic coast can produce has practically ended the hunt for bodies. A thick pall of snow covers the blackened ruins of the north end. The sleet helped the exhausted firemen once again to subdue the fires in the wreckage.

The many thousands homeless victims of the horrible disaster were face more appalling. Today, pneumonia and influenza, and possibly as many injured.

**1,700 Bodies Recovered.**

Official statements issued today by heads of the relief committee show that 1,700 bodies have been removed from the mass of debris.

When those who found places to sleep or shudder throughout the long, cold night, emerged today, the scene which greeted them was even more appalling. Many bodies which had been spared by the flames had been frozen.

The blizzard had completed the work which the fire had done. More than 1,000 bodies were left standing in Halifax, and added exposure and cold to shock and injuries, and had paved the way for countless cases of pneumonia.

**No Window Panes Left.**

The fight against the elements was more uneven than the fight against the fire. There is not a window pane left in Halifax, Dartmouth, or Richmond. Many doors were twisted from their hinges and many houses were so twisted that the doors do not fit.

Improvised shutters, pillows, old clothes and boards failed to keep the biting gale. Added to this suffering was the fact that the victims, for the greater part, were compelled to remain in darkness throughout the night.

Those who possessed lamps or lanterns could not keep them lit, as strong was the gale which harassed the stricken city throughout the long night.

Even rescue parties are compelled to cease work occasionally and seek places of warmth.

**One Relief Train Arrives.**

But one of the many relief trains said to be headed for Halifax has arrived. That is the first train leaving Boston.

For the first time since Halifax tottered and fell like a house of blocks, the devastated area may now be defined. The destruction extends from North street, near the center of the city, for a distance of more than two miles up the harbor to Africville on the Bedford Basin. Also for a dis-

## Eat Heartily of Fish, Fruit, and Dairy Foods, Advises Herbert Hoover

The Food Administration is encouraging free consumption of perishable foods and has placed the ban on only such foodstuffs as wheat, meat, fats and sugar, which must be saved for exportation.

"Foods of the perishable products group," says the Food Administration, "are essential to nutrition, and their continued production, distribution and consumption are vital in view of national and international necessities. The Food Administration desires to emphasize these facts and to assure all producers and handlers of milk and dairy products, poultry and eggs, fish, fruits, potatoes and vegetables that no restrictions have been placed on such food materials or are liable to be."

tance of nearly a mile along the water front to Gottingen street. It is along the water front where the homes of the poorer classes were located and where the scene of destruction are the worst.

In the section of Dartmouth there is not a single home but what was damaged. This condition also prevails in Richmond where the mortality list is even more appalling.

**Came Still in Dark.**

Until the work of rescue nearly completed two other important features will remain unheeded—that of compiling the mortality list and that of fixing the blame for the explosion. A mistake in signals is the generally accepted cause.

The inquest upon the dead and the inquiry among the living are being held today by a special tribunal appointed from Ottawa. It consists of a judge, one mercantile expert, and one naval expert. The tribunal is headed by Justice Drysdale, the only admiral judge in Nova Scotia.

Refugees working all day from surrounding cities scarcely could believe their eyes at the scene of destruction, desolation, and devastation. They had expected much, but the sight greeted them almost defied description.

**Physicians Overworked.**

Much of the work naturally falls on the hundreds of physicians and nurses of this and surrounding cities on whom the demands are expected to be heavy. In many instances one physician has as many as twenty-five cases, and the demand being so great he cannot expect assistance from other physicians.

From out of the chaos there comes at least one bit of cheering news. A careful search has failed to find injury to any of the many vessels laden with the men who are bound for "over there."

The American sailors, at first reported to have been injured or killed, are guarding the ship which is left of homes and business houses.

It will be many days before a complete list of the fatalities can be compiled. Days before the debris can be cleared.

Today Halifax is a place of hospital and morgues, of bitter cold, driving sleet, and blackened wreckage.

**Many Inquiries.**

Telegrams are pouring in from all parts of America asking for information concerning persons who may have been in the city when the French ship blew up. Every train brings crowds of relatives racked with suspense for some loved ones.

The hotels are thronged with sad-faced. Everywhere is desolation, everywhere mourning.

The exact extent of the toll in human lives cannot be known for many days, probably never will be known. The fire which swept the blasted area wiped out the wrecks of hundreds of buildings.

The storm has greatly delayed trains and prevented relief parties from outside cities from getting to work as early as they expected.

**Both Ships to Blame?**

When the official government investigation of the munitions ship explosion begins here it will be testified that the *Mont Blanc* carried 4,000 tons of T. N. T., the highest explosive known, and a deckload of benzene. As this floating bomb came through the narrow there was a light mist. The duty of the vessel was to keep to the right, and hug the narrow as it went toward Bedford basin to await a convoy.

The Belgian relief ship was coming out of the basin and some witnesses allege neither ship was on its right side of the stream. In order to rectify the mistake they exchanged signals which were evidently misunderstood. The *Imo* rammed the munitions ship, backed away and ran aground on the Dartmouth shore. At this point there are several versions of the story told.

## Vardaman Quotes Times Editorial to the Senate



SENATOR VARDAMAN.

During yesterday's session of the Senate Senator Vardaman, rising to the question of trade legislation, made extended reference to the editorial columns of The Washington Times, as follows:

"Mr. President, I am not going to detain the Senate by a discussion of this bill this afternoon. It is a subject that should be given very careful and exhaustive consideration before it is disposed of. The Congress should be careful in dealing with such matters lest greater harm might be done than possible good effected. A great deal of new legislation will probably be proposed at this session of Congress; I am always glad to receive suggestions—a new thought or an idea is of immense value in these abnormal times. But, I repeat, we should be careful, and no legislation of a permanent character should be enacted that could safely be postponed until after the war is over. The fevered brain is a veritable Pandora's box of mistakes, and an error is often more perplexing and productive of harm than a deliberate crime. There is no function in the social life of Americans more potential of good or evil than that of the editor of a great newspaper or magazine. Its influence extends throughout the land and its consequences are felt even by generations yet unborn."

"Mr. President, in wading through the enormous mass of commonplace editorial stuff which fills the metropolitan newspapers nowadays one becomes tired with the pernicious monotony. Most of these editors write what they are told to write and support the policies agreed upon by the patriots for pelf. To run upon something really virile, vigorous, healthy in morals and sound in economics, such as the editorial which appeared on the first page of The Washington Times of the afternoon of yesterday, is refreshing. I am going to ask permission to insert this editorial in the Record. It is worthy of a place there. I wish every patriotic American could read it. Its patriotism is refreshing, and the salutary lesson which it teaches ought to bear good fruit. I especially commend it to the Committee on Interstate Commerce, to which I shall ask that it be referred. I ask that it be inserted in the Record, without reading, unless some Senator desires to have it read."

There being no objection, the editorial from The Washington Times of December 6 referred to was referred to the Committee on Interstate Commerce and ordered to be printed in the Record.

## EUROPEAN WAR NEWS SUMMARY

The battle on the Asiago plateau positions, west of the Brenta river, in northern Italy, pauses momentarily as the forces of General Diaz have withdrawn to the second defense line of heights in this area. The Austro-Germans, again seeking to pierce and then turn the Italian line with huge forces, have apparently once more failed in their chief object. The Italian second line is reported to be held intact and is declared to be stronger than the first.

The Teutonic troops directed their chief attacks against the Italian defenses on Monte Sissano and Monte Meletta, south of Gallio. But it was in the latter sector that the piercing movement was attempted. Terrible artillery bombardment preceded this operation, but the bravery of a single brigade of Bersaglieri, the Fourth, saved the day. They held out for twelve hours and made it possible for the Italians to link up their second line at all points in this vicinity. The Austro-Germans made six desperate attacks and were finally compelled to desist because of very heavy losses. It is to be expected, however, that the invaders will renew their offensive.

On the western front there are indications that the Germans contemplate an attack in the Arras region, north of the River Scarpe, south of Lens. The latest British official report at hand mentions increased artillery activity of great intensity in this region, which is north of the Cambrai area. It is not improbable that the Germans will attempt to push forward along the Scarpe in order to weaken the hold of the British to the southward, at little fighting of more than local importance has occurred in the past thirty-six hours, and most of this has been initiated by the British. They attacked on the eastern side of the salient, and in the vicinity of La Vacquerie. German trench positions were captured and the British line materially improved thereby.

On the French front the artillery activity remarked for the past four days continues in the Champagne and on the Verdun front; in the former sector near Malmaison de Champagne, and in the latter, east of the Meuse. No infantry actions have occurred.

The French official report states that the Rhine-Rhone canal. It will be recalled that this is the section of the French line where United States troops have been in front line trenches for training purposes, and it is not improbable that the Germans intend one of their "object lessons" in an attack in some force.

It is now announced officially that the Roumanian forces have undertaken armistice negotiations with the Austro-German command, following such action by the Russian commander on the Roumanian front. Since the upheaval that flooded the Maximilists to the top in Russia, Roumania's armed forces have been isolated and there was practically no chance for them to do than to follow Russia's lead.

In the Palestine campaign, which is being steadily continued by General Allenby's British forces, it is announced that Hebron has been captured from the Turks. This is part of the general encircling movement being directed against Jerusalem, Hebron being twenty miles to the southwest.

## EX-GAZA ESCAPES FROM SIBERIA TOWARD LANSING

By DAVID LAWRENCE.

(Continued from First Page.)

power, but sought asylum in some neutral country.

But the very speculation indulged by officials hints at how complicated and uncertain is the whole Russian situation. In the face of such circumstances the formulation of a policy is hazardous. The President Wilson apparently has determined to follow the same course that he did in Mexico—to omit no opportunity to express the sympathy of the United States with the revolution as an abstract thing, and to refrain from showing excessive friendliness to or partisanship for any faction until assured that the latter is truly representative of the revolution and possesses the elements of sovereignty—popular support and sanction.

Great Britain and France have not been ready to go so far as the United States. They have been more conservative in the councils of the allies is such times. A point of view eventually will be accepted.

Press dispatches from Paris have repeatedly hinted that Colonel House was endeavoring to get the entente to adopt a more sympathetic attitude toward the Russian revolution, however disappointing may be its present military prospects. The President's message to Congress reveals his purpose not to relax the moral support of this country to the revolution as a whole, though material aid may be for the time being withheld until a government of unquestionable representative of the people is established.

Senator Sterling of South Dakota, who has long taken a keen interest in the affairs of the District, today declared for the Polinder delegate bill.

"I am in favor of the Polinder bill which would give the District a delegate in Congress," said the Senator.

He believed the District should be represented by a delegate chosen by the people who would have the right to speak on District affairs and vote on them.

Senator Sterling said he was not yet ready to support the proposition of complete self-government for the District but he was clearly in favor of a delegate and would so vote and speak in the Senate.

**BLADENSBURG MEN TO ASK COURT FOR RETURN OF LIQUOR**

A bill in equity will be filed before Judge Beal in the circuit court at Harbors Monday morning for the return of about \$20,000 worth of property belonging to the five saloonkeepers of Bladensburg, which is held in the custody of Deputy Sheriff Thomas V. Garrison, at Hyattsville, it was learned from John W. Ryan, Jr., one of the attorneys for the saloonkeepers.

This property was captured when the raid was made on these places for selling intoxicating liquor on November 3, in defiance of an act of the Maryland legislature declaring Prince George's county a "dry zone" after November 1, and has been held by the deputy sheriff ever since. Judge Cammiller, in the circuit court of St. Mary's county, having decided Thursday that this act was unconstitutional, attorneys for the liquor interests asked the sheriff for its return.

"You have as much chance of getting that liquor back as the Kaiser has of eating his Christmas dinner in Washington, until the court of appeals sustains the decision of Judge Cammiller," was the way in which Deputy Sheriff Garrison met their request, "and furthermore anyone who attempts to open up his saloon in the meantime will be arrested."

## SCENING GUNPLAY, WOMEN SHUN TRIAL OF GASTON MEANS

(Continued from First Page.)

challenged Dooling and the New Yorker has seemed to accept his challenge. There is an evident nervousness on the defense side of the room and the unrest throughout the court room is noticeable. It is the native citizens of the town who have caused a great deal of the air of anticipation, for they have expressed their fear of what might happen.

Dooling set out today to break the defendant down. He is prepared to spend the entire day grilling him if necessary. Yesterday he cross-examined for an hour and a half and the defendant had lost his air of suavity.

**U. S. WARSHIP SUNK BY SUBMARINE; 60 OF CREW MISSING**

(Continued from First Page.)

gator and officer. His rank of lieutenant commander, however, dates from August 29, 1916. He remained in charge of a vessel operating in American waters until the outbreak of the war, when his ship was one of the first to be sent overseas to cooperate with the British in blocking the activities of the U-boats.

He was considered especially valuable for service in the war zone, because of his familiarity with the English navy and a large acquaintance among the officers of the British admiralty.

Reports from Admiral Sims reaching the office of the Secretary of the Navy frequently mentioned his ship and its commander for activity in the barred zone. He was untiring in his efforts and when the ship was on patrol duty spent nearly his entire time on the bridge, ever on the alert for a chance at action.

He accepted the most dangerous work with the eagerness that characterized the real fighter and his dash and daring were the envy of the younger officers.

After six attempts had been repulsed by our counter attacks, the enemy, having suffered severe losses, was compelled to arrest his advance at Monte Sissano.

**PENNSY INSTALLS FOUR-TRACK LINE FROM NEW YORK**

Washington as the railroad gateway between New York, New England, and the South is soon to be the terminus of a four-track railway system.

The Pennsylvania railroad has undertaken construction of a through four-track line between Washington and New York to meet the heavy traffic demands. Part of the work on the northern end of the line has been completed. Construction of two additional tracks between Philadelphia and Wilmington is being completed. Work between Washington and Wilmington will be pressed as rapidly as possible.

**COLD IN WASHINGTON? 20 BELOW IN WISCONSIN**

CHICAGO, Dec. 8.—The middle Western and central plains States are experiencing zero weather today. From the Alleghenies to beyond Kansas and south into Oklahoma and Texas, the mercury is steadily dropping. Points in northern Wisconsin have reached the 20 below mark. Chicago is at 6 above, with a promise of 5 below by morning.

A heavy wind and snow storm is sweeping Indiana. Traffic in Indianapolis is demoralized. Trains in central Indiana have been delayed for hours. Storm warnings were hoisted on the lakes.

**GOOD BLOOD**

"Blood will tell." Blotches and blemishes, like murder, will not, unless the blood is kept pure. Its purity is restored and protected by the faithful use of

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Largest Sale of Any Medicine in the World. Sold everywhere. In boxes, 10c, 25c.

## ITALY IS CHEERED BY U. S. DECREE AGAINST AUSTRIA

(Continued from First Page.)

is about two miles farther away than the British were following the big drive which General Sir Julian Byng launched on November 30.

Dispatches from the front today said that the German garrison which occupied Bourlon wood, on the northern side of the Cambrai salient, is being kept under heavy shell fire.

Infantry fighting, undertaken to improve new positions, was reported from other parts of the Cambrai front, chiefly in the Maroing La Vacquerie sector.

**BRITISH CAVALRY AWAITS INFANTRY'S ADVANCE AROUND JERUSALEM**

British troops under General Allenby today resumed their encircling movement around Jerusalem and are forcing the Turks to evacuate villages in the El 'Uz 'Uzi Foka area according to official dispatches.

Following an advance of thirty miles in less than a week Allenby's cavalry were forced to halt their advance on the night of the 6th. The infantry, although within striking distance of the Holy City. Northwest of the city the Turks have depopulated a number of villages, the report states.

Aided by Russian cavalry British expeditionary forces are renewing their activities in Mesopotamia and have followed the enemy into Jebel Hamrin.

"Cossacks have done well," is the laconic report of the British commander, in commenting on the fighting of loyal Russian troops co-operating with the British.

**BERLIN CLAIMS GAINS FOR PRINCE RUPPRECHT ON THE YPRES SALIENT**

BERLIN, Dec. 8.—An official announcement says: "Western theater—Front of Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria—Firing on Ypres salient, which was heavier at times has extended to the south as far as Lys. On the south bank of the Scarpe the artillery firing increased toward evening. Between Graincourt and Maroing there were unimportant enterprises for the improvement of our position. The Farm of La Justice was taken by storm and Maroing was cleared of the enemy. North of La Vacquerie we maintained our position against fighting against English hand grenade attacks. The enemy, who had penetrated them for a time, was thrown back by our fire."

"Front of the German crown prince—On both sides of the Meuse river the firing activity was lively during the afternoon."

"Front of Duke Albrecht—Rhenish Landwehr brought in twenty prisoners after a bold attack on French trenches in the Aremberg forest."

The evening official communication issued by the war office says: "Local engagements on both sides of Graincourt (Cambrai sector) were successful for us."

**ITALIANS HOLD GERMAN ADVANCES IN VALLEYS OF FRANZELLA AND RONCHI**

ROME, Dec. 8.—An official report from Italian headquarters says: "The withdrawal of our troops from the Meletta salient to the rear line of defense was accomplished on Wednesday night and yesterday morning, under protection of the artillery, which held up the advance of the enemy."

"An enemy party attempting to come down into the Franzella valley was driven back in disorder by machine gun fire."

"In the afternoon, after the most violent artillery preparation, carried out from north of the Ronchi valley to Monte Kaberlaba, the enemy attempted with large forces to break through our line south of Gallio. The attempt failed, owing to the bravery of the Fourth Bersaglieri brigade, which, opposing the enemy at Monte Sissano, and engaging him in a strenuous struggle lasting for twelve hours, gave time for our line to link itself up at that point also in accordance with the plan."

After six attempts had been repulsed by our counter attacks, the enemy, having suffered severe losses, was compelled to arrest his advance at Monte Sissano.

**ULSTER TROOPS TAKE TRENCHES IN ATTACK NORTH OF LA VACQUERIE**

LONDON, Dec. 8.—An official British communication says: "A successful local operation was carried out today north of La Vacquerie (Cambrai sector). Trenches constituting our objective were captured by the Ulster troops, making a considerable improvement in our line at this point."

"Southeast of Ypres our patrols last night successfully attacked hostile working parties. Northeast of Ypres a trench was captured, and a number of casualties were inflicted on the enemy. In these encounters prisoners were taken."